

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph in the specification after the title of the invention:

The following application is a divisional of U.S. patent application serial No. 09/910,175, filed July 20, 2001.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (original) A carrier for denitrification of water, comprising a transition metal capable of activating molecular hydrogen with formation of metallic hydrides and on which denitrifying bacterial strains adhere which are capable of surviving in anoxic conditions and in the presence of hydrogen.

14. (original) The carrier according to claim 13, wherein the metal is palladium and the carrier is activated carbon.

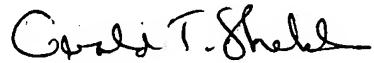
15. (original) The carrier according to claim 13, wherein the bacteria are selected from the group consisting of *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Xanthomonas maltophilia*, *Flavobacterium indologenes*, *Alcaligenes eutrophus*, *Pseudomonas maltophilia* and *Pseudomonas putrefaciens*.

16. (original) An apparatus for denitrification of water, comprising a denitrification reactor, containers of hydrogen and carbon dioxide which are directly connected to the denitrification reactor, a tank for flashing the gases dissolved in the water that arrives from the denitrification reactor, an ozonization unit for feeding ozone into the water that arrives from the flashing tank.

17. (original) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the hydrogen and the carbon dioxide that arrive from the flashing of the water are recycled to the reactor.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.



Gerald T. Shekleton
Registration No. 27,466

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Welsh & Katz, Ltd.

120 South Riverside Plaza, 22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312/655-1500